

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of publishing a product document for a client for the purpose of disclosing information about a product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a searchable document database and a publication Web site in communication with said document database;

electronically receiving said product document transmitted by a client's computer; and

publishing said client document by adding said client document to said document database.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document comprises a primary document and one or more attachment files.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include a sample deposition statement.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales brochure.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an image of a purchase order.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales invoice.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an image of a commercial Web site page.

5 8. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an image of a printed advertisement.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include a video clip.

10 10. The method of claim 2, wherein said attachment files include an audio clip.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record, said document notarization record including a timestamp.

15 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

20 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record is performed by a notarization vendor Web site in communication with said database.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of charging said client a fee for adding said product document to said database

25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said fee is paid before said product document is added to said database.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

5 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said method further comprises the step of transmitting to said client's computer a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

10 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

15 19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

20 20. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document is transmitted by said client's computer via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

20 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein said product document is published on a restricted basis for access only by users and user groups selected by said client.

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23. A Web based system for publishing a product document for a client for the purpose of disclosing information about a product to establish a bar to patentability of inventions practiced in said product, said system comprising:

5 a searchable document database; and

a publication Web site in communication with said document database, said publication Web site including means for electronically receiving said product document transmitted by a client's computer and means for adding said product document to said database.

10 24. The system of claim 23, wherein said product document comprises a primary document and one or more attachment files.

15 25. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include a sample deposition statement.

20 26. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales brochure.

25 27. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an image of a purchase order.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an image of a sales invoice.

29. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an image of a commercial Web site page.

30. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an image of a printed advertisement.

31. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include a video clip.

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32. The system of claim 24, wherein said attachment files include an audio clip.

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33. The system of claim 23, further comprising means for of digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record, said document notarization record including a timestamp.

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34. The system of claim 33, wherein said document notarization record includes a digital fingerprint.

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35. The system of claim 33, wherein said means for digitally notarizing said product document and obtaining a document notarization record is provided by a notarization vendor Web site in communication with said database.

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36. The system of claim 23, further comprising means for charging said client a fee for adding said product document to said database

37. The system of claim 36, wherein said fee is paid before said product document is added to said database.

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38. The system of claim 23, further comprising means for recording the number of times said product document is accessed by end users.

39. The system of claim 23, wherein said product document includes an earliest date of commercial availability of said product associated with said product document, and said system further comprises means for transmitting to said client's computer a notice of time remaining to file a patent application under applicable law on matter incorporated in said product based on said earliest date of commercial availability.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein said earliest date of commercial availability is a date said product was first "on sale" in the United States under United States Patent Laws.

41. The system of claim 23, further comprising means for collecting and adding bibliographic data to said product document.

42. The system of claim 23, wherein said product document is transmitted by said client's computer via one of a plurality of transfer protocols determined by said client.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein said plurality of transfer protocols includes the HTTP and FTP.

44. The system of claim 23, wherein said product document is published on a restricted basis for access only by users and user groups selected by said client.